National Broadband Plan

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Jennifer Manner, Deputy Bureau Chief, PSHSB
Jeffrey Cohen, Senior Legal Counsel. PSHSB
Overview

- What is the National Broadband Plan (the Plan)?
- How can you contribute to the development of the Plan?
- What are the next steps in the process?
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("Recovery Act")

- Allocated $7.2 billion for grants and loans to expand broadband deployment
- Directed the FCC to submit to Congress "a report containing a national broadband plan"
  - Due date: February 17, 2010
Contents of the Plan

• The Plan must “seek to establish that all people of the United States have access to broadband” and “establish benchmarks for meeting that goal”
  – Analyze mechanisms for ensuring access
  – Develop a strategy for achieving affordability and maximum utilization
  – Evaluate the status of broadband deployment
  – Advance important “national purposes”, such as “public safety and homeland security”
Chairman Genachowski: the Plan must be “data-driven”
www.broadband.gov

- Contains information about the Plan and related initiatives
  - Upcoming broadband workshops (Aug. 6–Sept. 3)
    - Schedule, contact info, instructions on how to register and how to suggest topics and questions
    - PSHS workshop: Aug. 25
  - News updates and information on events and proceedings related to the Plan

Countdown to Feb. 17th: 185 days and counting!
Notice of Inquiry (NOI)

• Adopted by the FCC on April 8, 2009
• Sought comment “to inform development” of the Plan
  – Stated that the Plan “must reflect an understanding of the problem, clear goals for the future, a route to those goals, and benchmarks along the way”
  – Posed specific questions and invited comment more generally on issues “relating to the adoption or implementation” of the Plan
• Comment Date: June 8, 2009
• Reply Comment Date: July 21, 2009
**NOI: Public Safety and Homeland Security Issues**

- How best to promote interoperable, wireless-based communications?
  - Relationship between the Plan and the FCC’s ongoing 700 MHz proceeding?
- What *services* are most needed?
- How to ensure physical diversity and redundancy, and improve hardening of network assets?
- How can existing *spectrum allocations* (e.g. 4.9 GHz) meet the needs of public safety?
**NOI: Public Safety and Homeland Security Issues (cnt’d)**

- What are the **costs** for public safety of obtaining broadband service, applications, or devices?
- What **funding sources** are available?
- Are broadband networks used for **mission-critical communications**?
- What **models** (e.g. statewide networks) have been successful? What are their limitations?
- What **policies** would best promote Next Gen 9-1-1? Cybersecurity? Pandemic preparedness?
- How can the FCC **coordinate** with other federal agencies? With state, local and tribal entities?
NOI Comments

• Over 8,000 pages of comments submitted
• Verdict: a weak overall record
  – Too focused on aspirational goals, not enough on ways of getting there
• What was missing?
  – Useful data
  – Analysis of trade-offs among various approaches
  – Clear presentation of ideas and “seriousness of purpose”
  – Strategies for implementing ideas
Public Safety and Homeland Security: What is still needed?

• More and better data about both current and future broadband needs
  – Concrete plans and benchmarks on how to improve interoperability
  – Analysis of the spectrum allocations necessary to support both current and future broadband services
  – Data on the costs of deployment and other costs
  – What applications are most needed?
  – What are the requirements of public safety for their communications networks?
  – Other useful data
Next Steps: 
FCC Broadband Workshops

• Designed to “promote an open dialogue between the FCC and key constituents” on matters related to the Plan
  – Opens up the *ex parte* process, so “the public can see the debate as it unfolds”
  – Compresses multiple meetings and presentations into each workshop

• Presenters include *technical experts*, *business strategists* and *economic experts*
PSHS Broadband Workshop

• Date: Aug. 25th, 9:00 a.m.
• Location: FCC, Commission Meeting Room
• Coordinator: Jennifer Manner
• Live Video Link: www.broadband.gov/workshops.html
PSHS Workshop: First Panel

• Focusing on the use of broadband applications by first responders to communicate information and prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies

• Topics: interoperability, redundancy, the costs of providing broadband access to public safety
PSHS Workshop: Second Panel

• Focusing on the impact of broadband technology on particular homeland security issues

• Topics: cybersecurity, bioterrorism, pandemics, critical infrastructure vulnerabilities; current and future public safety use of managed IP-networks
Additional Next Steps

• Ex parte meetings
  – Useful for presentations that involve technical data or proprietary information
  – “Permit–but–disclose” rules apply

• Field hearings outside of Washington, D.C.
  – Likely to be held throughout the fall
  – Dates and locations TBD—check www.broadband.gov for updates!

• Other events and proceedings—stay tuned!